

Message Text

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13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 130521Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5052

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0998

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT: AMCIT CHARLES M. DEAN AND VISIT TO AUSTRALIA BY SOTH
PHETRASY

REF: VIENTIANE 1009

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SOTH PHETRASY VISIT TO AUSTRALIA WITH DFA FEB 13, MENTIONING INDICATION THAT SOTH AND PARTY "MIGHT" VISIT AUSTRALIA AROUND FEB 20 (REFTEL). DFA OFFICER (GOODRICK, LAOS DESK) SAID THAT EARLIER THOUGHT OF VISIT AROUND FEB 15 WAS NOW DEFINITELY OFF, AND HETHOUGHT FEB 20 VISIT WAS EQUALLY UNFEASIBLE. HE HAD NOT RPT NOT HEARD OF FEB 20 POSSIBILITY.

2. GOODRICK EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT SOTH VISIT NOW LIKELY TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL, AT EARLIEST. SOTH IS GOING OVERSEAS ON ANOTHER TRIP IN MARCH AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO VIENTIANE FOR LAOTIAN NEW YEAR SECOND WEEK OF APRIL. AUSTRALIAN VISIT, IF IT MATERIALIZES, WOULD TAKE PLACE THEREAFTER, IN GOODRICK'S VIEW.

3. WE ASSUME THAT DFA RECOMMENDATION TO FOREIGN MINISTER (PARA 2, REFTEL) WAS SO DRAFTED AS TO ENSURE SOTH WOULD NOT PRT NOT VISIT AUSTRALIA IN NEXT WEEK OR SO.
HARROP

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